



2023-24

INDIGENOUS

STUDENT GUIDE

WELCOME TO ASSINIBOINE!

WELCOME • BIENVENUE • TAWÓW • HAU/HAN
MASIH NENUDELI • TUNGAHOGITI • PIIHTIKWAY
KIWIISHAAMIKOO • MIIGWECH BI-IZHAAYEG

We are honoured to welcome students from many nations across the province and around the country, strengthening our wealth of First Nations, Métis and Inuit knowledge at Assiniboine. We aim to infuse cultural teachings into curriculum to ensure that Indigenous students see themselves and their realities reflected in the learning process. Our goal is that all students will acquire the knowledge and skills to be culturally competent and gain a true understanding of Indigenous affairs, past and present, in Canada.

FOLLOW US:



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This publication is available in alternate English formats.
Please contact accessibility@assiniboine.net or 204.725.8700 (ext. 6052).

Assiniboine Community College campuses are located on the traditional territories of Treaty No. 1 and Treaty No. 2, and the shared traditional lands of Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene and Anishinabek/Ojibwe peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation. We also recognize other Treaty territories where our community-based training takes place. We welcome students who seek knowledge here.

GET TO KNOW US

Connecting with someone at Assiniboine is a great way to start your educational journey. Meet the team that will help you explore programs and assist with your education plan.

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS



Kris Desjarlais, Nehiyaw/Métis
Director, Indigenous Education
desjarlaisk4@assiniboine.net



Crystal Bunn, Dakota
Indigenous Services Officer
204.573.3690 | bunnc@assiniboine.net



Cecil Roulette, Anishinaabe
Indigenous Counsellor/Cultural Consultant
204.725.8700 ext. 7181 | roulettcc@assiniboine.net

Our team offers a wide-range of support and services to assist students along their post-secondary journey. We liaise with academic advisors, connect you with important community resources and provide guidance to First Nation, Métis and Inuit

students from a holistic perspective to support your academic goals. We act as a resource for all faculty and students, including those in community-based programs, in their efforts to acquire a true understanding of Indigenous cultures and ways of knowing.

RECRUITMENT

Our student recruitment specialists visit numerous communities throughout the year. For many of our students, Assiniboine's recruiters are the first point of college contact. We provide opportunities to learn about the college through presentations, campus tours and one-on-one appointments. We can help you explore programs, match you with the ones that are right for you, and introduce you to the Assiniboine experience. We are more than happy to meet to discuss program options, what life at Assiniboine is like, and answer any questions you may have!

204.725.8750
Toll free: 800.862.6307 ext. 8750
recruit@assiniboine.net



Erin Lambert
Manager, Recruitment



Eileen Moody, Cree
Indigenous Student
Recruitment Specialist



Amanda Dorscheid
Student
Recruitment Specialist

STUDENT SUCCESS ADVISORS & LEARNING STRATEGISTS



Jane Alex



Chris Hunt



Kristy Jamieson



Matthew May



Shaya Smith



Caley Strachan



Jaïne Tegos



Trenton Therrien

Our student success advisors and learning strategists meet with prospective and current students of Assiniboine to ensure you are on the right path to achieving academic success. We are available to meet with you in-person or over the phone to answer questions

about the college's programs and services. We can provide guidance on funding, housing and childcare, as well as help you with program planning, academic assessment for admissions and understanding college policies and procedures.

204.725.8723
studentservices@assiniboine.net

EXPERIENCE ACC

- ✓ Register for live, online info sessions
- ✓ Order custom exploration packages
- ✓ Take virtual campus tours
- ✓ Apply for student awards

FREE GIFT when you sign up for a custom exploration guide!

Discover Assiniboine with this one-stop shop!
Scan the QR code or visit assiniboine.net/experienceACC.



SCAN ME



VISITING ELDERS & KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS

Visiting Elders and Knowledge Keepers are available at all campuses for traditional knowledge and teachings.

They represent Dakota, Anishinaabek, Nehiyaw, St'at'imc and Métis Nations, and provide guidance, teachings, historical information, traditional knowledge and support to all students. The visiting Elders program offers Assiniboine students an opportunity to interact with Elders and Knowledge Keepers in an informal setting, with the ability to request one-on-one spiritual and cultural guidance.



Shirley Norquay
Anishinaabe



Eugene Ross
Dakota



Verna Demontigny
Métis



Beverly Harvey
Nehiyaw (Plains Cree)



Frank Tacan
Dakota



Susie McPherson-Derendy
Nehiyaw (Plains Cree)



Gerry Oleman
St'at'imc



Marina Tacan
Dakota



Harvey Pelletier
Métis



Allen Sutherland
Anishinaabe



Deborah Tacan
Cree/Métis



Grace Masse
Woodland Cree

OUR COMMITMENT

Assiniboine Community College recognizes the unique history of Indigenous peoples and is committed to playing an active role in reconciliation. Our Indigenization Strategy focuses on four initiatives that help reduce barriers to education and educational support to empower Indigenous students to succeed.

CICAN INDIGENOUS PROTOCOL

Post-secondaries that have signed the Colleges and Institutes Canada protocol recognize and affirm their responsibility and obligation to Indigenous education.

BUAPC COMMITMENT OF PARTICIPATION

An MOU establishes the commitment between Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples Council and the City of Brandon to promote Aboriginal education, employment and business inclusion within the community.

MANITOBA INDIGENOUS BLUEPRINT

Institutions of the Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint for Universities and Colleges are committed to making excellence in Indigenous education a priority.

ASSINIBOINE INDIGENOUS STRATEGY

A strategy encompassing Assiniboine's commitment to the Truth & Reconciliation's calls to action on education in order to overcome the legacy of residential schools in Canada.

COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMING

In addition to our campus-based programs, Assiniboine serves Indigenous students through community-based training. This allows us to customize our program delivery to suit the needs of learners and provide flexible, alternative opportunities in communities or central locations. We work with a variety of Indigenous partners throughout the province to deliver



**ACC SUPPORTS
RECONCILIATION
—EVERY CHILD
MATTERS.**

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

Assiniboine strives to celebrate Indigenous cultures, develop strong ties, improve access to study opportunities and bring learning options directly to those who prefer to learn closer to home.

Community-based education is one of the strengths of Assiniboine; in locations where we don't have a permanent campus, we deliver training and programs so students can live and study where you have strong ties and roots. In the past several years, we've partnered with a variety of First Nation communities across Manitoba, including:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| » Sandy Bay | » Rolling River |
| » Gods Lake Narrows | » Swan Lake |
| » Peguis | » Ebb & Flow |
| » Pine Creek | » Birds Tail Sioux |
| » Tootinaowaziibeeng | » Sioux Valley |

If you're looking for educational opportunities close to where you live, connect with your counselor. If you're enrolled in a community-based Assiniboine program, you have access to all of the student supports that on-campus students have—reach out to our Indigenous Affairs team at indigenousaffairs@assiniboine.net if you'd like to learn more, need support, or would like to get involved.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ALEXIS JOSEPHINE CINQ-MARS

SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER, 2022



My name is Alexis Josephine Cinq-Mars. I'm Métis and a mother of four. I'm originally from Selkirk, Manitoba and I graduated from high school in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. I recently graduated from the Social Service Worker program at Assiniboine and was the 2022-23 valedictorian at this year's graduation ceremony in Brandon. I worked as a peer mentor out of Assiniboine's Cultural Centre and was part of the Student Council. I'm going to be continuing my education at Brandon University this fall to pursue Gender & Women's Studies.

Growing up I was a Youth In Care, so I really wanted to get involved and give back to that community after being part of it. I've been going to different events and ceremonies with our elders and really trying to stay involved as much as possible within our community. That's one of the reasons why I chose the Social Service Worker program. I don't really have a plan for exactly what I want to do with my education just yet but I've been exploring a lot of the different paths I could take. In my first year I was thinking about a career as a social worker and then in my second year of the program I started to look into counseling as a career. But the more I thought about these paths the more I couldn't see myself in these roles. I took more of an interest in policy and advocacy through my involvement in the student council and became pretty good at making changes

for the better. That's why I'm going to continue my education and learn more about women and gender studies. I don't know exactly what my future career will be just yet but I think my current education and these new studies will pair nicely and will allow me to continue down the path of awareness and advocacy for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and connecting with our youth.

I was a teen mom. There were a lot of obstacles to overcome for me to get to this point in my life. Five years ago, I would have said there is no way that I would have graduated as the valedictorian or been part of the Student Council. My kids pushed me in a positive direction and I was able to make changes in my life to get here. It was a journey with many challenges. Once my kids got older, I knew it was time to get back into the workforce. I reached out to some resources here in Brandon and discovered that there were some really great programs like the Tuition Waiver program set up to help assist former Youth In Care with getting an education and ready for the workforce. Without that assistance I wouldn't have been able to pursue an education. I was able to get the financial support needed to help with tuition and daycare for my children. I remember sitting in their office crying because I was so happy- it changed my whole world. I wouldn't be where I am right now without that.

I'm part of the peer mentorship program offered through Assiniboine's Cultural Centre. The peer mentorship program usually involves a second-year student or alumni who offers support to current Indigenous students, giving them someone to talk to about their studies or helping to get them involved in events and activities during their time at the college. Sometimes students just want to unload and have someone to talk to, and the peer mentors are people that have that understanding and have gone through many of the experiences themselves.

I was on Assiniboine's Student Council for both of my years at the college. The first year I was the Health and Human Services rep and the second year I was the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion. Creating the second position was something that we actually worked on and developed during my first year on council and I was the first person to take that role. My time on Student Council really shaped my whole college experience and really gave me so much more than what I came to the college for rather than just my education. All of the extra-curricular activities and experiences went beyond what I ever expected. I'm so glad I got to be part of it and it's helped me become just so much more confident in myself and helped me grow.

Assiniboine appealed to me because, as an adult learner, I felt more comfortable in this type of setting—smaller class sizes allowed for more one-on-one learning with my instructors. A lot of the education we receive at Assiniboine is more practical and really well rounded, and it opens the door to a lot of different career paths to pursue. My time here has given me a great foundation and if I decided to jump straight into the workforce, I know I could find a great career with my education.

My instructors were awesome. They all have so much knowledge and experience in their fields. Being able to share real stories from their time in the workforce really adds to their lessons. This I think is even more important in the Social Service Worker program because it deals so much with people and interactions. It's just really beneficial and gives us a better understanding of real-world scenarios.

I've had so many great memories at Assiniboine from my involvement with the Cultural Centre and through the Students' Association—memories that will stay with me for my lifetime. One of my favorites was when we created the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women display at the college. It was really special to be able to do something in the middle of the pandemic and to use our voices and bring awareness to the issues going on.

I'm just proud of myself for just showing up every day, and pushing myself during my time at Assiniboine. I think that was a theme, just keep going and thriving. I felt like people cared about what I had to say, which is a lot more than I can say about other places I have been. My peers wanted to hear what I had to say and I'm going to keep going and letting my voice be heard. I feel good and I'm proud of myself. Being the valedictorian was an honour and privilege. I've never spoken publicly to a crowd of that size, so that was very nerve wracking, but it was such an awesome experience. I had another graduate come up to me after and tell me that they felt so represented after hearing me talk, wearing the eagle feathers as part of my regalia on my grad cap and having the ceremonial drummers in the background. It was such a surreal experience and I still can't believe I did that.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT AWARDS

- » **Assiniboine Community College Foundation Indigenous Achievement Bursary (x2) - \$3,000**
Entrance or bridging (between first and second year); based on financial need
- » **Assiniboine Community College Indigenous Achievement Award - \$2,000**
Bridging (between first and second year); based on demonstrated college/community involvement, leadership and GPA
- » **Assiniboine Community College Indigenous Leadership Entrance Award - \$2,000**
Entrance; based on demonstrated school/community involvement, leadership and high school marks
- » **Louis Riel Institute Bursary (multiple) - \$3,500 to \$5,000**
Entrance or bridging (between first and second year) for Métis students; based on financial need
- » **Tundra Oil and Gas Indigenous Award (x2) - \$4,000**
Bridging (between first and second year); based on demonstrated school/community involvement and leadership

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Assiniboine's friendly and welcoming attitude is simply who we are. Small class sizes mean your instructors know your name and want to get to know you. Our campuses are easy to find and navigate, which means you can move between classes quickly, see friends every day and access any supports you need.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUPPORTS

Our team offers a variety of services and events throughout the year that are available to Indigenous students studying on campus, online or through community-based programs. All students are encouraged to access our services and participate in the following:

- » Orientation
- » Indigenous Student Welcome
- » Holistic, proactive advising and support
- » Elders and Knowledge Keepers' program
- » Family events
- » Cultural celebrations, activities and teachings
- » Monthly sharing circles
- » Online bingo
- » Peer mentoring and role models
- » Our Journey: End of Year Celebration

The Cultural Centres, located at the Victoria Avenue East and North Hill campuses in Brandon, are dedicated and welcoming Indigenous spaces to relax, visit, learn or study. Crystal and Cecil are available to meet with students at the Brandon centres from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.

20% OF GRADUATES FROM
ASSINIBOINE SELF-IDENTIFY
AS FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS
OR INUIT.

STUDENT RESOURCES

Everyone experiences a different transition when attending college. We ensure all students have access to the supports they need to live a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Your instructors will be great resources if you have questions throughout your program. We offer supports to all students, including peer tutoring, the Learning Curve, the library, accessibility/disability services and connection to your student success advisor. Visit assiniboine.net/studentsupports for more information.

COUGAR ATHLETICS

Interested in playing a sport while attending college? We offer men's and women's volleyball, soccer, futsal and women's hockey. We provide travel, meals, accommodations and clothing to our student athletes. For more information on Cougar Athletics, visit assiniboine.net/athletics or contact our Athletics Manager at cougars@assiniboine.net.

FINANCIAL AID & AWARDS

The Assiniboine Community College Foundation raises money that goes directly to students each year. Approximately \$600,000 is available annually to students in the form of scholarships and bursaries. Visit assiniboine.net/awards to browse all available options or contact awards@assiniboine.net for more information.

Note: In order to qualify for some forms of funding, students will need certain tax information. Ensure you have filed your taxes so that you can qualify for Student Aid and other forms of funding.

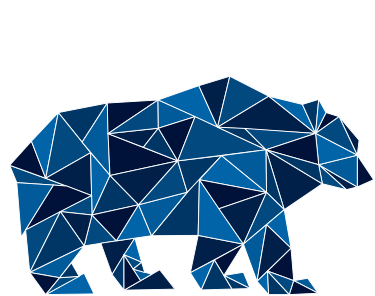
Assiniboine is a post-secondary partner with the Tuition Waiver program, which provides financial assistance to anyone who has ever been in care in the Manitoba child welfare system. Visit futuresforward.ca, call 204.987.8661 ext 671 or email lhildebrand@yesmb.ca for more information.

SEVEN SACRED TEACHINGS

FROM A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

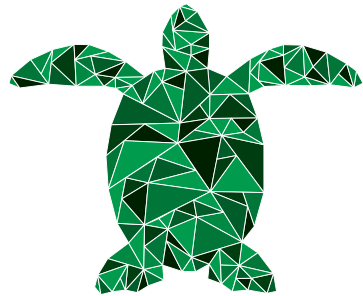
The Seven Sacred Teachings form the foundation of a full and healthy life. Traditionally, they were taught through the story of an innocent child who received these gifts from Seven Grandparents (powerful spirits). Nations and communities may use differing stories to impart these teachings, but the same guiding principles and morals are found in all. Over time, Indigenous peoples used animals to embody the spirit and intent of the teachings, and the animals are now the symbolic representations. The teachings remind us of the way to live a good life and carry ourselves in relation to all others. Their origin dates back to the beginning of time, and they have been embraced by Indigenous cultures across Turtle Island.

The write-ups included here have been written by the Indigenous Affairs team at Assiniboine to help guide you during your student journey.



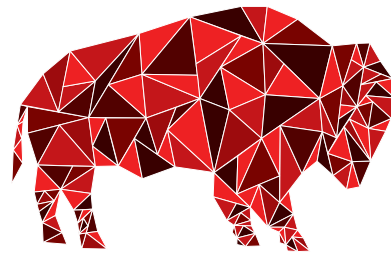
COURAGE

Venture out. Push yourself.
Do the right thing. Stay strong.
Live a health life—mind, body and spirit.



TRUTH

Do not lie to yourself or to others.
Speak truthfully. Do what you say,
honourably and truthfully.



RESPECT

Respect others in and out of school.
Treat others the way you would like to be
treated. Respect rules. Show up on time.
Hand in work and listen. Respect yourself.



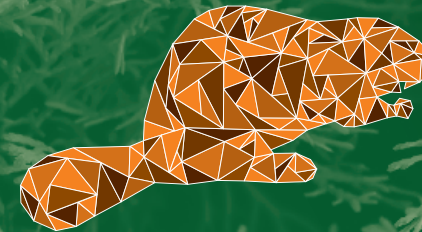
HONESTY

Be honest with yourself and others.
Do what you say you are going to do; keep
your word. Be realistic with time, money,
school work and life.



HUMILITY

Life is sacred. Everyone is a human being; no
one is better than another. Have compassion;
do not say “I know”—you stop yourself from
learning when you do. Be selfless, not selfish.



WISDOM

Be open-minded. Use your gifts to create
a healthy lifestyle. Listen. Be observant.
Make wise decisions. Live and learn.



LOVE

There is no shortcut to achieving love.
Learn to love yourself so you can learn
to love others.

STEPS TO SUCCESS

Track your progress to becoming an Assiniboine student with this check list!

Part 1 SECURE A SPOT IN YOUR PROGRAM

☐ FIND A PROGRAM THAT INTERESTS YOU

- » See what programs may interest you by taking our Me@ACC career quiz at assiniboine.net/careerquiz.
- » Find out more by searching our program list online at assiniboine.net/programs.
- » Contact us to ask questions, set up a campus tour or meet to discuss program options:
 - Victoria Avenue East or North Hill campus - Brandon 204.725.8750
 - Centre for Adult Learning - Brandon 204.725.8735
 - Parkland campus and Centre for Adult Learning - Dauphin 204.622.2222
- » Attend a program information session or take a virtual tour of our campuses. Learn more at assiniboine.net/experienceACC.

☐ TAKE UPGRADING COURSES (IF APPLICABLE)

- » We offer upgrading courses for students in both Brandon and Dauphin. Check out the details at assiniboine.net/adultlearning.

☐ SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

- » Visit assiniboine.net/apply to get started on your online application. For most programs at Assiniboine (those that are not competitive entry), qualified applicants are admitted on a first-completed, first-served basis. We accept applications up to one year prior to the program start date.
- » You will need to submit the following (at minimum) to apply:
 - Online application
 - \$95 application fee
 - Official transcripts

- » Certain programs, such as our competitive entry programs, require additional documentation. Check out the admission requirements on your program's webpage for full details.
- » Receive an automatic follow-up email from Assiniboine stating we have received your application.

☐ RECEIVE YOUR ACCEPTANCE E-MAIL

- » This email will inform you of your acceptance and will ask you to pay your tuition deposit to hold a spot in the program. It will also contain your start date and any conditions of your acceptance.

☐ APPLY FOR SPONSORSHIP (IF APPLICABLE)

- » Contact your sponsor (by April for a September start and October for a January start) and ensure they complete a sponsorship authorization form to send to Assiniboine as soon as your sponsorship is confirmed. Visit assiniboine.net/sponsorship to download the form.

☐ PAY YOUR TUITION DEPOSIT

- » This deposit secures your spot in your program. If you cannot pay your tuition deposit on time, call the Admissions Office toll-free at 800.862.6307 ext. 4036.

Congratulations
ON SECURING A SPOT IN
YOUR PROGRAM!

Part 2 PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

☐ COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR SUPPORTS

- » Identify supports that will help you through your educational journey. Feel free to contact the member of your team at Assiniboine who has been assisting you so far. They will set up an appointment with your student success advisor for program information or can connect you with cultural supports.

☐ APPLY FOR HOUSING (IF APPLICABLE)

- » Apply for housing early! Some options for housing include Brandon University residence (brandonu.ca/residence) or Places4Students Inc. (places4students.com), an online database of housing options for students in both Brandon and Dauphin. Students can also post a free roommate or sublet advertisement.

☐ APPLY FOR CHILDCARE (IF APPLICABLE)

- » The Assiniboine Early Learning Centre is located at the Victoria Avenue East campus in Brandon. Parkland Campus Kids Inc. is located at the Parkland Campus in Dauphin. Call 204.725.8713 (Brandon), 204.622.2222 ext. 6557 (Dauphin) or visit assiniboine.net/childcare for more information.

☐ FIND YOUR MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

- » In Brandon, a bus pass is included when you pay your Students' Association fees. If you are bringing a vehicle, paid parking is available at each campus and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit assiniboine.net/parking for more information.

☐ BALANCE YOUR FINANCES

- » Apply as early as June 1 for a Manitoba Government student loan (if applicable) at manitobastudentaid.ca.
- » Apply for Assiniboine scholarships and bursaries. See assiniboine.net/awards.

☐ RECEIVE YOUR REGISTRATION PACKAGE

- » This package will be emailed to you in July. It will have information on registering for courses, parking and other campus supports.

☐ PAY YOUR TUITION FEES

- » Information on how and when to pay these fees will be delivered to you from our registrar's office.

☐ XPLORE ACC

- » Complete this orientation and you will meet your instructors and fellow students, find your classes, get your locker, receive your student ID and much more. Get to know your campus and feel like a part of the community!

☐ ATTEND CLASS

- » Enjoy your first day of classes! Be sure to keep any course outlines and descriptions, as they may be important further along your educational journey.

NEED HELP WITH ANYTHING ON THIS CHECKLIST?

Contact the recruitment team at 204.725.8750 or toll free 800.826.6307 ext 8750 or recruit@assiniboine.net.

INDIGENOUS CENTRED EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

It's important that you receive a warm welcome, are supported throughout your journey, and are celebrated when you achieve success. Assiniboine has developed many activities, events and programs where you can experience what the college has to offer. We hope to see you at as many as possible!

INDIGENOUS STUDENT WELCOME

We know many students will be nervous as they make their transition to college. Each year, we like to welcome new and returning students with a day filled with food, fun, prizes, entertainment and ceremony. This event gives students an opportunity to meet peer mentors, advisors, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, as well as other supports available on campus and in the community. It is a great way to get to know other students, make important connections, and helps ensure students are ready to go on the first day of class.

PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

The Indigenous Peer Mentoring Program pairs new and returning Indigenous students to meet for a few hours each month to support positive connections and student success.

Participate in activities such as one-on-one and group mentoring sessions, cultural events, study groups and sharing circles.

Meet new people, navigate and access college and community supports, build communication and relationship skills, and help other students embrace their culture!

OUR JOURNEY: END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

In May, Assiniboine Community College, Brandon University, Brandon School Division and our Indigenous education partners hold a joint celebration of Indigenous student success. It is a chance to honour our graduates together and celebrate Indigenous students in ceremony.

EXPLORE ASSINIBOINE

Connect with us

Community isn't just a part of our name; it's who we are. That means we're here for you and ready to help. Whether you want to know about careers, programs, financial aid, awards, or courses that are available right now, there is no question too big or too small.

Reach out and book an appointment with Assiniboine's friendly staff. Call 204.725.8750 or 1.800.862.6307 ext 8750 or email us at recruit@assiniboine.net.

Info sessions

Curious about college? Explore your options! Our live, online information sessions give you an overview about the program you're interested in. Chat with faculty, ask questions and get to know Assiniboine!

To register or for more information, including topics and upcoming dates and times, visit assiniboine.net/infosession.

Virtual tours

Log on and see what our campuses have to offer. Assiniboine's virtual tours give you an inside glimpse into shops, classrooms, and all of the spaces and places that make our campuses unique!

Go to assiniboine.net/virtualtour.



ASSINIBOINE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ATTENDING ASSINIBOINE:
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